

## Learning from the best

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra performs with MHS's Honors Symphony Orchestra

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### Grant Update

Want to know how the "Veggie U" program, funded by grant money, is working in the high school? Check out [thecspn.com](http://thecspn.com) for an update with Michael Planicka and his efforts towards getting his students' "noses out of the textbooks."

### Mason Black Hole is the "sixth man on the court":

With the basketball team rolling through their season, the Black Hole is back again. With their new motto of being the "sixth man on the court" the Black Hole gets spirit going in the boys' basketball games.

### Noteorious Concert Tonight:

The Noteorious pop-acapella choir performs their first individual concert tonight from 7-9 p.m. See [thecspn.com](http://thecspn.com) to find out more details and to what to expect from the show.

### Girls' bowling team off to a great start:

With a 7-3 overall record, the girls' bowling team is off to a good start to the season. See more on how the girls take this individual sport into a team effort on [thecspn.com](http://thecspn.com).

### Gymnastics pictures from 1/14 meet:

Looking for coverage from the January 14 Comet Cup gymnastics meet? Check out [thecspn.com](http://thecspn.com) to view photos, results and more of the meet.

## College crime goes underreported

### Campus crime a red flag to potential students

Ashley Calvani | Staff Writer

Few prospective college students give crime a second thought.

Yet, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, crime on college campuses hinders stability and social growth and is one of the most pressing social problems in the United States today. In light of recent crimes springing up on campuses across the U.S., such as the 2011 shooting at Virginia Tech University that ended with the death of two police officers, perhaps it's time to make safety a larger priority, according to Deepika Hebbalalu, a senior at Mason High School.

Hebbalalu, who will attend Miami University next fall, said she is not the only one amongst her peers who didn't put much thought into staying safe on campus.

"I didn't really consider crime and safety," Hebbalalu said. "We don't pay enough attention to crime because we take for granted that Mason is such a safe place."

But according to Melissa Lucchesi, Outreach Coordinator and Lead Victim Advocate for Security on Campus, Inc., it is important for students and families to do their research when it comes to crime on campuses.

"This is probably the first time most students have been away from home like this, and research backs that a large portion of student victimizations happen between the time a student gets arrives at college and the start of thanksgiving break in their first year," Lucchesi said.

Brenna Hallum, freshman at The Ohio State University and 2011 MHS graduate, said that entering college is a whole new world compared to home.

"I've had to brush up on my common sense skills," Hallum said. "Though I feel pretty safe on campus, I do get scared. When you're out at night, and your parents aren't checking up on you and reminding you to be

safe, you have to remind yourself."

Recently, a string of armed robberies has left OSU's administration working to improve safety on campus, according to an article on OSU's [thelatern.com](http://thelatern.com). Hallum said one night she heard the sound of gunshots go off on a fraternity street.

"It was freaky," Hallum said. "OSU isn't really known for crime, but obviously, there is danger at any school you go to. It's learning about how to be aware and stay aware of your surroundings."

According to Lucchesi, prospective students should take note of safety programs already established on campuses when making judgments about how safe a school is.

"Because crime is generally underreported – especially more personal crimes like domestic violence and sexual assault – looking strictly at crime statistics is a bad idea," Lucchesi said. "I would suggest prospective students and their families educate themselves about the safety programs in place. Does the campus safety department have prevention education programs? Do they have awareness programs? Are they talking about alcohol as it relates to crime? Are they talking about sexual assault? Go beyond the statistics."

According to Lt. Ben Spilman of the Miami University Police Department, 90 percent of sexual assaults go unreported to campus police, and the natures of those crimes are to mostly to blame.

"In our experience here, sexual assaults involve acquaintances, and there is alcohol involved," Spilman said. "Victims might not feel comfortable reporting to police because they are underage and there was alcohol involved. But if you are a victim of crime, we aren't going to hold you responsible for underage alcohol con-

## EXPERTS SAY:

## STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



"Don't leave personal belongings out or unattended in public places."  
Lt. Ben Spilman



"The prime time for crime is 11p.m. to 3a.m., be especially cautious if you are out during those hours."  
Lt. Ben Spilman



"Subscribe to the Emergency Text Messaging system."  
Melissa Lucchesi